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Message Text

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70
ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NIC-01

SAJ-01 ACDA-19 MC-02 IGA-02 DRC-01 /180 W
---------- 037582
R 231500Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0697
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USCINCEUR
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 10021

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS ET US UR CH
SUBJ: MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR ETHIOPIA

SECDEF FOR ISA

1. GERMAN AMBASSADOR BARON VON STACKELBERG DESCRIBED TO ME AUGUST 23 A TWO HOUR CONVERSATION HE HAD HAD WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE GENRAL AMAN AUGUST 20 CONCERNING ETHIOPIA'S NEED FOR ADDITIONAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE. AMAN'S THESIS WAS THAT ARMED FORCES COORDINATING COMMITTEE IS SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATING TURNING TO "A MEMBER OF THE EASTERN BLOC" TO SOLVE ITS URGENT DEFENSE PROBLEM, BUT THAT THIS PRESSURE COULD BE MITIGATED IF FEDERAL REPUBLIC OR ANOTHER WESTERN COUNTRY WOULD PROVIDE A $100 MILLION LOAN ON SOFT TERMS WITH WHICH IEG COULD PURCHASE ARMS FROM USG.
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2. GENERAL AMAN MAINTAINED THAT PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS HAD SADLY NEGLECTED ETHIOPIA'S DEFENSE. OVER LAST TEN YEARS USSR HAS PROVIDED SOMALIA WITH SOME 280 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF SOPHISTICATED MILITARY EQUIPMENT. US HAS PROVIDED ETHIOPIA FAR LESS AND ETHIOPIAN EQUIPMENT IS ANTIQUE IN COMPARISON WITH SOMALIA'S.
ETHIOPIAN INTELLIGENCE INDICATES THAT SOMALIA INTENDS TO ATTACK ETHIOPIA BUT WILL PROBABLY NOT DO SO FOR ANOTHER YEAR. BY THEN SIAD BARRE WILL NO LONGER BE OAU CHAIRMAN AND TRAINING IN USE OF MOST SOPHISTICATED SOVIET WEAPONS WILL HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

3. GENERAL AMAN THEN TOLD THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR ABOUT THE GRANT, CREDIT, AND CASH PURCHASE ASSISTANCE WHICH USG IS NOW OFFERING IEG, CONTENDING THAT IEG DOES NOT HAVE THE MEANS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CASH PURCHASE OFFERS.HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT USG WILL EVENTUALLY AGREE TO INCREASE ITS ASSISTANCE BUT THOUGHT THIS IS NOT LIKELY UNTIL CONGRESS RECOVERS FROM WATERGATE TRAUMA AND NEW PRESIDENCY HAS SETTLED DOWN. ETHIOPIA CANNOT WAIT THIS LONG, HOWEVER, AND MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES COORDINATING COMMITTEE ARE THEREFORE ARGUING THAT ETHIOPIA MUST OBTAIN ASSISTANCE FROM "A MEMBER OF THE EASTERN BLOC." (AMBASSADOR INTERPRETED THIS TO MEAN CHINA, BUT THOUGHT THAT USSR IS ALSO A POSSIBILITY.) GENERAL AMAN SAID HE HAS WARNED MEMBERS OF AFCC THAT ACCEPTANCE OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM EASTERN BLOC WOULD HAVE SERIOUS POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES WITHIN ETHIOPIA, BUT THAT THEY DO NOT SEEM OVERLY CONCERNED ON THAT SCORE AT PRESENT.

4. GENERAL AMAN TOLD GERMAN AMBASSADOR THAT PRESSURE FOR TURNING TO EASTERN BLOC COULD BE MITIGATED IF "THE WEST" COULD PROVIDE A $100 MILLION LOAN ON SOFT TERMS WITH WHICH IEG COULD PURCHASE ARMS. HE ARGUED THAT ONLY HOPE FOR PEACE IN HORN IS TO CREATE AN EQUILIBRIUM OF MILITARY FORCE. IN THAT CASE IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA COULD COOPERATE PEACEFULLY

REGARDING EXPLOITATION OF OIL AND WATER RESOURCES IN THE OGADEN.

5. GERMAN AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT RECENT TRIP OF HIS MILITARY ATTACHE TO MOGADISCIO HAS CONVINCED HIM MORE THAN EVER THAT SOMALI THREAT IS A SERIOUS ONE. HE BELIEVES GENERAL AMAN MAY SOON TALK TO BRITISH AND FRENCH IN SIMILAR TERMS IN HOPES OF CREATING INTEREST IN PROPOSED $100 MILLION LOAN. AMBASSADOR VON STACKELBERG BELIEVES
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SOVIETS WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA AND THUS HAVE BOTH SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA IN POSITION OF DEPENDENCE ON USSR. WHEN I ASKED HIM WHETHER THERE IS ANY POSSIBILITY THAT FEDERAL REPUBLIC COULD PARTICIPATE IN A MILITARY ASSISTANCE LOAN TO ETHIOPIA, HE REPLIED THAT HE WOULD BE DISCUSSING ISSUE WITH BONN BUT THOUGHT IT QUITE UNLIKELY. I DISCUSSED WITH AMBASSADOR AT SOME LENGTH THE CONSTRAINTS UPON U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA AND SAID WE AWARE OF POSSIBILITY THAT IEG MIGHT IN DESPERATION TURN TO CHINA OR

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SOVIET UNION TO SOLVE WHAT IT CONSIDERS ITS MILITARY NEEDS. I ALSO
DISCUSSED WITH HIM POSSIBILITY THAT IRAN OR SAUDI ARABIA MIGHT DECIDE
MAKE SOME FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO ALLEVIATE IEG'S MILITARY PROBLEM.

6. EMBASSY WILL SHORTLY SUBMIT ADDITIONAL MESSAGES SUBJECT
OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR ETHIOPIA.
WYMAN

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